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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: "Down With Corn Earworms!"...Information from the gardening specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Do you have sweet corn growing in your garden? If you do, you're looking forward to some fine dishes during this summer...and maybe even to some good home canned corn for the winter days ahead.

One thing you want to be sure of, however, is that the corn earworm doesn't beat you to your dish. And it may. It attacks corn in just about every part of the country. The corn earworm is green or brown. It has light stripes along its sides and back. And after entering the ear of corn through the silk, it eats corn kernels near the tip of the ear.

But the garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say that the pest is easily thwarted. It can be controlled with mineral oil, applied to the ears of corn with an ordinary glass medicine dropper. Inexpensive white mineral oil will do. Put it on the corn silks when the tips of the silks have turned brown.

How much oil to an ear? An ordinary medicine dropper holds about 40 drops... and you use about a half the dropper full on each ear of corn. One application of the oil is enough. It's perfectly safe. It will not leave any flavor on the roasting ears and it really makes short work of the earworm.

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